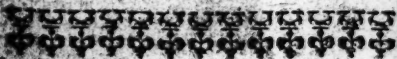




Επιτομή Βίβλ' τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου.

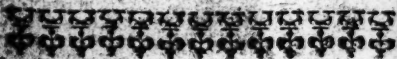
THe Night once come, which *Lampe*
implies,
Doe not presume to close thine eyes,
Till thou dost on Conscience looke,
Who here presents thee with a Booke :
Read, in thy Closet search thy sin,
Conscience stands to shut thee in :
Where, whilst thou dost thy God implore,
She her owne selfe shall keepe the doore /
What she here speaks is Heathen Greeke
To old-Law-men, but those who seeke
God as they ought, by Gospell, shall
Finde it her new Originall.
Adde onely this Construction to it,
Doe it *Exactly*, or never doe it.





Επιτομή Βίβλ' τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου.

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TRIAL of
CONSCIENCE
In a
Quotidian
Exercise
by T.R.



W. M. Sculpsit.
London, Printed for I. Benson. 1639.



M. P. Parker
Trial of

Conscience.

IN A
Quotidian Exercise.

Who shall see scourges over my thoughts? or the Discipline of wisdom over my Heart? Ecclus. 22.

Lord, thou knowest my down-sitting, and my uprising, thou understandest my thoughts long before: Thou art about my path and my bed, and spiest out all my wayes. Psa. 139

Written by T^HO. RILEY.

LONDON:

Printed by J. Oakes, for John Benson, and are to be sold at his shop in St. Dunstons Church-yard. 1639.

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S.A.E. Morse Fund
February 7 - 1955

COPIES

8

1


Edward Van Dusen
Camber

()



To the Right
Honourable Lady,
the Countesse
of D. &c.

Most pious Lady :

 *That's all the
Title I shall
bee bold with at
this time ; your
Religion in my
eyes being a more
A 4 glori-*

()
glorious attribute
than your Court-
ly Honours : I
am glad your Re-
quest (though I
wish it had beene
a Command)
hath prevented
my slacknesse, and
turn'd my Pre-
sent into a Debt,
and my Gift into
a Du-

()
a Duty : GOD
knows with what
joy I read your
faire Letter,
when I perceiv'd
Your holy desire
to bee instructed
by Writing con-
cerning the dayly
Tryall of Consci-
ence , which be-
fore mee past over

A 5 in

()
in a short Dis-
course, which is
but conceite and
thought made au-
dible by Words;
whereas the du-
ring Character is
both thought and
word made vi-
sible and perma-
nent. I would to
God (so much I
tender

()
tender my Soules
good) that I were
alwaies thus im-
ployed, upon con-
dition I could bee
alwaies thus hap-
pily prevented in
the unforc'd de-
sires of a Devoute
Soule. So little
cause your honour
had to complement

a

()
a feare of trouble
in my task, which
is above merit re-
warded in the ve-
ry employment, e-
specially since
your Goodnesse
hath condescended
to request, where
your Greatnesse
might command.
Hec that in this
would

()
would not serve
you, would forfeit
the Title of Ser-
vant to his God ;
who put it into
your soule, to put
Your Conscience
into a Quotidi-
an Triall: a great
mysterie in Di-
vinity , every
heart does not
conceive

()
conceiue it, every
eye cannot see it;
or both these be-
ing yeelded, every
hand cannot skill
to put that in acti-
on, which the
heart has in spe-
culation. Concer-
ning which in-
comparable helpe
to all Devotion,
I

()
I could relate un-
to you what admi-
rable and Divine
Elogies it has
beene Crowned
within the circle
of all Ages, ever
since the Patri-
arch walkt out in-
to the Fields to
meditate, even to
this colder time
of

(
of, at the best luke-
warne Religion;
by what, and how
many glorious Lu-
minaries of the
Church, nay, the
very Soppies and
Pbilosophers it
hath been set upon
a bill conspicuous
to all the World,
had the World not
lost

()
lost her old Eye-
sight : But the
rare Opinion your
Honour professes
to have enter-
taind of it at my
first Discourse,
saves all this La-
bour, and I shall
hereafter ranke
your admiration
of it amongst the
choycest

(¹)
choyest Arguments, both of its
use & glory: both
being exceeding
ample; the use be-
cause of its neces-
sity to Man; the
glory by reason of
our familiaritie
with God: A-
braham being
from hence espe-
cially

cially stil'd Gods
Friend. We see,
that speaking af-
ter the manner of
men, time has de-
riv'd unto us a
Proverbe, viz
that even recko-
nings make long
Friends. G O D
has caught the
World, or would
doe.

()
doe in her owne
Dialect: For this
EXAMINATION
being derived
from a Latin word
that signifies the
Tongue of the
Scales, is nothing
else but a just and
even Triall of the
Conscience (by
that weight which
Law

()
Law exacts, and
that Allowance
which Gospel per-
mits) every Day
in the Sight of
G O D, that all
Accounts of the
Soule may be even
before the Image
of Death, that
is, Sleepe sieze
on us in a figure:
So

()
So that let GOD
please, to call
when hee plea-
ses, no Minuite
shall finde us
in security, all
our Accompts
are made, and
writ in the blood
of a Mediator,
all is even, be-
cause hee has
paid

D^() paid all, and
all thus GOD and
a- mee are Friends
te for all our ine-
us quality : Thus
all with Enoch wee
ts walke with GOD
nd bere, till it please
nd him to translate
r, us to a better
e- place. This is the
s Tryall in gene-
ed ral,

()
rall, and a happy
py Soule. it is P
wheresoever this a
gracious Guest an
shall make abode: tk
Wherefore to make pa
some little, but b
constant prepara- la
tion, Ile onely doe an
as much for the on
Stranger, as the on
Shunanite did
for

(4)

for the waifaring
is Prophet, provide
is a Table, a Stoole,
st and a Candlestick,
: the one for his re-
past, the other for
his repose, the
last for his late
and early Secti-
ons and Devoti-
ons, that is, by
id way of Introdu-
or B Etion

(1)
Etion set downe
three generall Re-
quisites necessary
to bee observed of
all those who in-
tend to reape a
blessing by this ex-
ercise.

Trial



Trial of Conscience.

The first Section.

THe first is, that
this Tryall bee
not undertaken
with any reluctance, as
a burthen or taske of
compell'd piety, but
B 2 with

Triall of Conscience.

with alacrity rather,
and as a great gift and
priviledge from Al-
mighty God towards
an exercis'd soule, that
whereas most in the
World runne on, not
considering what debts
and trespasses they
owe for unto their
God, who takes a
Note-booke of every
dayes transgressions,
til the summe amounts
above the power of
payment; yet we have
beene made so happy,
as to have this duty
reveal'd

ce. Triall of Conscience.

reveal'd for its excellent use, there's one blessing, and to have both an earnest of some, and a promise of more power, upon our Prayers, to performe what's reveal'd, there's another. Wherefore resolve, by Gods assistance, to goe on constantly and chearefully, or else better not begin at all.

This is the first, the second follows it, even in its owne nature: namely this.

Triall of Conscience.



The second Section.

THe second is, that this Holy Exercise being thus begun, we beware that we gather all day for our account at night, referring every blessing received, and every sin, so much as in an observed thought committed, to its proper place against evening, that the accompts may
be

ce. *Triall of Conscience?*

be the more full, expediate, and easie: As for example, as soone as I finde I have done, or spoke, or thought any thing amisse, though amongst a Million of multitudes, let me bee sure to speake inwardly to my Soule in this, or the like wing'd ejaculation: Well, this word, or this thought, since (O Lord) it has pleased thee to discover it unto me, shal, I hope, cost mee many a bitter sigh at my night-account.

B 4 accompts,

Triall of Conscience.

counts, before I dare
to close my eyes : A
very thought will doe
it, even at any worke
of our Calling; though
I confesse more or
lesse should bee set a-
part, according as
God has blest us with
opportunity, that De-
votion neither turne
sloath, as the super-
stitious Cloister hath
made it, nor a Cere-
mony of our security,
as the *Libertine* would
have it, nor Tyranny,
as the fearefull weake
Chri-

ce. *Triall of Conscience.*

are Christian makes it:
A for in true Devotion
oe all workes of our cal-
ke ling and family-affaires
gh may be diligently ob-
or served, and yet our
a- acts of Piety neverthe-
is lesse neglected; nay,
h the more observed:
e with our moderate
care God sanctifies the
workes of our rela-
tive estate, wherein
God has put us, as an
extraordinary preven-
tion of temptations,
and as the great amu-
nition in this and all

Triall of Conscience,

other spirituall imploiments : because that besides the Prayer of workes, as the Wise man sayes, *Prov. 14. 10. The Soule knowes its owne bitternesse, and a stranger shall not meddle with her joy* : That is, a good soule, as it feeles many things for her finnes, and yet complaines not unto the World, but unto God, who is able to comfort, by sighes and groanes which cannot be uttered;

Triall of Conscience.

ter'd ; even then perchance, when the aspect lookes cheerefully upon all society ; so in her joyes conceiv'd quietly for mercy receiv'd, shee can send up thanks to God, when the world thinkes shee is about a more inferiour employment, and so as the heart workes in secret, God sees in secret, and will, though not upon our merit, yet upon his owne free promise, reward us openly : this
is

Triall of Conscience.

is intimated in that of
Job 4. So I
received a thing secretly,
and as some Translations
read it, My
Eare received the
Veines of his Whisper:
And this is the second
preparatory.



The third Section.

The third makes
all compleate, and
is nothing but a con-
stant and settled course
of

ce. *Triall of Conscience.*

of I
et-
af-
ly
ne
r:
d
of Temperance & Mo-
deration : take away
this, and we ruine all
religious courses for
ever, because the life
of all pious actions is
constancy and perse-
verance in practice,
which are acts of settled
and undisturb'd rea-
son; how then shall a-
ny religious duty bee
perform'd, when in-
temperance has stolne
away both our reason
& memory, so that ei-
ther wee quite omit it,
& slye downe in our
beds

Triall of Conscience.

beddes (in *Dauids* phrase) like Sheepe and Beasts in Hell, or else huddle it over so perfunctorily, that the action makes not so much for our good, as the manner of it doubles our condemnation. Men may thinke what they please, but God is not mocked, neither has he, sayes *Solomon*, any pleasure in fooles: Nor is the intemperance I here exclude onely in fare, as meats and
and

Triall of Conscience?

and drinks, but equally of customary passions, not regulated by enlightned Reason, as excessive mirth, immoderate sorrow, fondly over-flowing and toyish love, unreasonable austerity, and morose behaviour, though the best and most divine courses of Devotion may consist with the casual unfortunate acts of these affections, yet with their customes and habits they cannot;

Triall of Conscience.

not ; to this I adde the
intemperance of the
Tongue, especially in
jocular and flight
discourse, where many
a vaine word flies out
unregarded. Now if
I must give accompt
for every idle word at
the day of Judgement,
as Truth it selfe sayes
wee shall, unlesse I
make the accompt e-
ven here in the day of
Indulgence, how is it
possible, that if I make
light of these words,
but either I must be
forc'd

ce. *Triall of Conscience.*

forc'd to omit the account, by reason of the infinite number, which is desperate, or else teare and wound my Conscience every day by a most tedious and sufferable examination of this one particular? which by consequence through the infirmity of the flesh, policy of the Devill, without speciall mercy and ayde of God, may bring an universall loathing and hate upon the whole duty, which

Triall of Conscience.

which would be a misery in the end above all expressions miserable : No marvaile then that St. James concludes so roundly in his first Chapter, *If any man seemes to bee devout on religious amongst you, and yet bridle not his Tongue, all that mans devotion and religion is vaine.* And this with helpe of your devout Comment may suffice for the preparatory to this great duty : I will now,
God

ce. *Triall of Conscience.*

ni- God willing, in all
vo plainnesse shewyon the
le- duty it selfe.

ile *Examination*, or
es dayly tryall of the *Con-*
ly *sciēce*, that's the name,
r, and in effect is but ca-
ee sting up accounts with
a- God, and providing
et that the bookes of our
e, Consciences here a-
n gree with that register
e that God dayly takes
e above: a taske easie e-
- nough to that soule on
r whom God hath be-
s stowed a true faith in a
Sayiour, for his Trea-
sure

Triall of Conscience

sure expends all, no
cost at all to us, *Christ*
gives the Coyne, the
hand of Faith, onely
numbers it, and deli-
vers it to whom it is
due. This is the ordi-
nary course of living
in a continuall peace,
though compast with
all outward crosses and
miseries in the World;
for to a good heart, so
long as it can nestle in
the bosome of eter-
nity, and like that be-
loved Disciple, leane
upon the breast of her
Master

Triall of Conscience.

no Master Jesus, all is well,
though it fall out to be
the very night of trea-
son and passion : at
which time truely this
duty is thought by
some Divines to have
beene manifested in a
most exact and extra-
ordinary Example :
You know when our
Lord was set at meate,
that sad night in which
he was betrayed, and
told his Disciples that
notwithstanding all his
divine acts of Love,
giving his flesh for
their

Triall of Conscience.

their foode, and blood
for their drinke, yet
one of his owne Disci-
ples should betray
him : every one, even
Iscariot, but in Hypo-
cricie, beganne first to
aske his owne Consci-
ence, and then Christ,
who knew more of
them than their owne
soules, *Lord is it I?*
Matth. 26. As if every
one, except *Judas*, had
said in order; Lord, I
know, that although
I know nothing by
my selfe, yet am I not
there-

nce. *Triall of Conscience.*

ood thereby justified, and
yet therefore having exa-
Dis. mined my Conscience
ray concerning this thy
ven prophesie, that one of
do- us shall betray thee, al-
to- beit I finde all cleare
ci- and free from the least
ist, intention of so foule a
of Treason, yet since thou
ne only knowst what may
I? enter into mans base
ery heart, if thou keep not
ad out all our temptati-
I ons; I beseech thee
gh spare me not, if I be
by the man, name mee,
ot shew me, as a most hi-
e- deous

Triall of Conscience.

deous Monster of ingratitude; such a sinne deserves a shame above the age and sufferance of mortality : therefore, deare Master, since my Conscience cannot tell mee of my sinne, thou art greater than my Conscience, and knowest all things : oh tell mee whether I am that sinfull wretch or no.

I would to God every Lords Supper had beene thus eaten, and all Consciences

exa-

Triall of Conscience

examined beyond their
owne knowledge, by
an appeale unto *Christ*,
concerning their very
secret and unknowne
sinnes, before they eate
of that Bread, and
drinke of that Cuppe:
but we go further, and
prescribe this course,
after all Suppers, be-
cause all may be our
last, before wee dare
take any rest, more or
lesse, as health and o-
ther importances shall
unfeignedly permit;
and to say concerning

C

all

Triall of Conscience.

all thoughts, words,
and actions: Ah Lord,
thou hast prophesied
in thy Word, that
there are some a-
mongst us wicked
men, though never so
much blest by thee,
who having left thee
the Creator, have set
their hearts upon the
Creature, profit, plea-
sures, honours, hu-
mours, bellies, Lord is
it I? Others, that in the
superstitious vanities
of their minde have
set up Idols to wor-
ship

Triall of Conscience.

ship 'em, and who
serve thee after their
owne wills, not thy
Rules, who relye on
Angels and Saints, and
their owne arme for
helpe: Lord is it I?
Some thou sayest there
are who take thy name
in vaine, by horrid
oaths, blasphemies,
castings upon sacred
Writ, mistakes of Mi-
nistres, infirmities of
the Prophets, in their
function of Preaching
and Reading the holy
Word: Lord is it I?

C 2 others

Triall of Conscience

Others, who neglect
their workes of calling
upon Dayes of wor-
king, and yet prophane
the dayes of rest by
working unlawfull
things; by idlenesse, by
lawlesse and unpermi-
ted Recreations, by
not frequenting the
publicke place of holy
worship on the Lords
Day, and other holy
times appointed; by
flighting of Common
Prayer, unreuerent and
carelesse behaviour
unconformable: b Ge
stures

Triall of Conscience.

stures in the time of
Divine Service, by ha-
ving itching eares at
Sermons, and censu-
ring all, more than
practising any: by
neglect of the Lords
Work upon the Lords
Day; some by Judai-
zing nicety; some by
Heathen prophaneffe;
some there be that are
guilty of all these
things, Lord is it I?
If it be, Lord speake
to my soule in the
Revelation of thy
Love, that it my re-

C 3 turne

Trial of Conscience

turne an Answer in
the confession of her
owne unworthinesse,
that I may repent even
before I sinne, because
I know all finnes of
all degrees would bee
mine without thy
gracious prevention.

And thus, as I have
shewed you in the first
Table of the Deca-
logue, so you ought
to proceede in the
second, and examine
all transgressions of
unrighteousnesse and
falshood against our

Bro.

Triall of Conscience.

Brother, of excesse and
lust, distemperance a-
gainst our owne per-
sons, immediately ta-
king this Caveat, That
you alwayes reduce
the first motion of a-
ny sinne you have
comitted, to that Com-
mandement which for-
bids the last act : as if
thou hast falne into
that vile sinne of un-
advised wrath : Nay,
if but inward rankor
& malice of the heart,
aske pardon as for
Murther : if but a


Triall of Conscience.

lascivious glance has
past the whole day;
aske mercy as for A-
dultery ; for God can
never bee enough glo-
rified, nor man too a-
based before God:
All inward and close
murmurings against
any superiour, or the
Dictates of lawfull
Authority, all proud
speaking and boasting
of our owne worth,
must bee refer'd to the
breaches of the first
Commandement, and
so of the rest : and then
after

ce. *Triall of Conscience.*

has
ay;
A-
an
O-
a-
d:
ose
ast
he
ull
ad
g
n,
e
ft
d
en
er

after all these Lords
is it I, thy Conscience
doubtlesse will often
answer, as Christ did
to *Iscariot*, *Thou hast*
said it, confesse and a-
mend. Now for the
better performance of
this rare exercise, I'le
set downe these few
Conditions.



Triall of Conscience.



The first Section.

First, it must be done
ENTIRELY, to-
tally, not by peece-
meales; some peculiar
minuits must bee set
apart, wherein this
worke may bee entire-
ly attended on, and
because many living
under the authority of
ill-hour'd Masters, can-
not be masters of their
owne time, 'tis safest
to

Triall of Conscience.

to set that time apart,
which immediately
precedes our time of
rest, and then make
our bodies by this
holy and Divine ser-
vice, a true Temple
unto the God of Is-
rael: And this once
begunne, *Dauids* vow
must bee every day e-
very mans resolution:
*I will not suffer my
eyes to sleepe, nor eye-
lids to slumber; no, not
the Temples of my head
to take any rest, untill
I finde a place for the
Temple*

Triall of Conscience.

*Temple of the Lord, an
habitation for the might-
ty God of Jacob :* The
heart may and must
treasure up against
night all the day long
true and impartiall
notes : but this must
be the entire time for
the generall accompts,
and conferring Gods
bookes and our owne
together, so wee shall
quickly by Gods helpe,
see every thing that is
amisse in us, and what
wee finde extraordina-
ry evill, learne to have
an

ce. **Triall of Conscience.**

an extraordinary sorrow for it, and an extraordinary care over it ; that although it chance not to be quite remov'd, yet every day may be sensible, or at least be hopefull of some abatement.

This is the first, that it be done entirely, without interruption, at some peculiar destin'd season.

The

Triall of Conscience.



M

The second Section.

THE second requires, that besides this, it also bee performed *accurately, exactly*; not slightly, nor carelessly, but as that Royall Prophet us'd to doe it: Behold, O Lord, how I labour in my Prayer, and am vexed; vexed, because after all my care and diligence, I finde such imper-

ce. *Triall of Conscience*

imperfections even in
my Prayers : And in
the 77. *Psalme*, verse 6.
At night I commune
and discourse with my
owne heart, and exa-
mine or search out my
Spirit, or (as the word
will beare it) and sweep
my Spirit : No wet
finger worke, no slight
businesse, no perfun-
ctory employment, no
Exercise by the By:
but attention, privacy,
meditation, deepe stu-
dy, recollection, exa-
mination, cleansing (as
with

Triall of Conscience.

with a Broome) all,
so much as filth and
Dust in every angle of
the heart, though it be
never so tedious, and
the stir'd dust flie up in
our very eyes and no-
strils : and yet there are
some wayes of allaying
this dust so farre, as it
shall not flye so high as
to hurt that eye that
discovers it; as wee see
in our daily experi-
ence, a little water
sprinkled will so unite
so many of the little
bodies together, that
at

ence. *Triall of Conscience.*

all, at length they grow so
and heavy, that they can-
not ascend at all, but
e of are swept out with
t be pollutions of a grea-
and ter size: if wee sweepe
in softly, *commune with*
no- *your hearts,* and bee
are *quiet, Psal. 4.* 'Tis just
ing so with the Soule in
it this case: the Devill,
as like his jugling vassals,
at would faine bee raising
see of mists, even from
ri- that which wee are
er sweeping out; but wee
te must know that all he
e raises is on purpose to
t over.
t

Triall of Conscience.

over-perplexe us at the sight of our owne pollutions: and therefore keepe but this dust from flying upwards, and all is well: a little blood or water out of our Saviours side will doe it, and keepe all so low, that nothing shall rise up, either to shame or trouble us: This being a speciall Caveat about this second Condiō, that we take not so severely an exact account, that it should
tend

nce.

Trial of Conscience.

at

wne

ere-

this

up-

ell:

va-

rs

nd

ar

o,

or

g

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-

:

tend to dejection, or threaten a desperation: No, before ever wee looke upon the sinne that pollutes us, as we are Christians, let us bee provided of some of the immaculate Lambes blood, that has cleansed us from the Tyranny and condemning power of all sinne: so that if wee discover most high & hainous offences in our Soules, let the sight bee cause not of a sullen acedy, and lazy dis-

Trial of Conscience.

disconsolation, but of
a quicke and lively re-
morse, rather a while
Contemplating the
greatnesse and glory
of that mercy which
has promis'd to pardon
so great a sinne, and so
great a number upon
a true Repentance;
not that man may dare
to presume, but that
man should not dare
to despaire, and that
all sinnes should pro-
duce a pious humilia-
tion, but never any
impious Dejection,
there

Triall of Conscience.

there being no sinne
in all the World more
dangerous to man, nor
more derogatory from
the glory of a God Sa-
viour, than Desperati-
on for any sinne what-
soever. The Devill
often nicknames un-
godly sorrow, and de-
sperate thoughts by
the faire Title of Mor-
tification and Humi-
lity : but both grosse-
ly false, because
Mortification alwaies
workes by Faith :
Humility submits in
hope

Triall of Conscience

hope and love, but
Desperation has lost
all Faith and Hope:
and surely unreligious
Melancholy is direct-
ly opposite to Love,
and Hope and Faith
altogether: And there-
fore I adde a third
Condition of a high
and mysterious conse-
quence.

A

The

Trial of Conscience



The third Section.

THe third is, that
all bee done affe-
ctionately, feelingly,
with a lively sence
both of godly joy for
mercies receiv'd, and
godly sorrow for sins
detected; that all our
feares may bee of
Love, and all our
Loves season'd with
Filiall Reverence, all
our joyes, joyes of sa-
cred

Triall of Conscience.

cred teares, and all our
sighes and sorrowings
issues of joy: like good
natur'd and pious chil-
dren, who having
falne into any offence
against indulgent Pa-
rents, are sad and sure
of pardon together;
nay, the certainty of
the one, increases the
dolour of the other,
because to good soules
offence is greater tor-
ment than punish-
ment; so lovely is
mercy to a penitent,
and yet so foule is sinne

to

Triall of Conscience.

to a religiously sad
delinquent, because
the abuse of Clemency
in a Judge, aggra-
vates the Lawes trans-
gression above the act
of the Peccant: wher-
fore take this as a my-
stery in this rare Art
of dayly Tryall: It
may and will doubt-
lesse fall out, that up-
on often practice of
this duty, the nature of
our dayes may differ;
and that upon some
Accompts wee may,
as wee shall alwayes,
D both

Trial of Conscience.

both more or lesse,
finde more mercies be-
stowed than finnes
committed, so power-
full may grace by the
gift of God bee : o-
ther times the finnes
may appeare farre a-
bove positive particu-
lar mercies, for that of
preservation is conti-
nuall : if the first fall
out, as our owne soules
can onely testifie, then
joy triumphes ; if the
last, then sorrow has
got the Day. Where-
fore have a care never
to

ce. *Triall of Conscience.*

to performe one with-
out the other ; if joy
for mercies beginne,
let Religious sorrow
for the very imperfe-
ctions of thy good
actions conclude the
Meditation, for feare
joy alone grow either
proud or wanton, or
daring : If sorrow
for a multitude of fal-
lings, before the Medi-
tation cease, raise thy
soule up with contem-
plation of that joy
which ought to be in a

er D 2 sinner,

Trial of Conscience.

sinner, though never so
sinfull, because of a Sa-
viour, for feare griefe
grow desperate, and
dishonour the infinite
mercy of thy JESUS,
and destroy thy peace
here, and thy whole
person hereafter. Let
this bee retain'd as a
Mystery, when thou
enterest into thy pri-
vacies: but this is
only in particular;
now for the generall,
since Christ has made
Mercy exalt it selfe a-
gainst

Triall of Conscience

gainst Justice, joy must
be heire, and at last
have a double portio-
on: Every thing here,
though it must bee
done strictly and ex-
actly, yet alwayes
cheerefully: *David*
in the 77. *Psalm* calls
this Exercise his Song,
as if it had beene
his chiefe Recreation,
and indeede so it is:
And although the De-
vill may awhile trouble
us, and our flesh
loath it, yet at length

Triall of Conscience.

length it will appeare
to a well practis'd
soule, a very sacred
pastime, and conti-
nuall Jubilee, and e-
very day shall bee as
that awfull time at
which they receive the
Sacrament, a serious
Holy-day : for the
truth is, so long as
Faith is strong in the
Breast of any Christi-
an, the very sight of
our sinnes, the most
ougly things in the
World have a kinde
of

ace.
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Triall of Conscience.

of comfort: If as Na-
ture had bestowed two
eyes upon us, one to
be cast upon a Saviour
to love him, as the o-
ther upon the sinne to
loath it: and as great a
comfort it will be to
see every day so many
of our sinnes by this
Triall apprehended,
and condemned; and
slaine by Mortificati-
on; as it was for the
Israelites, before they
slept to see all their
blacke *Ægyptian* e-
D 4 nemies

Triall of Conscience.

nemies lye dead upon
the shore: however, if
for Tryall sake it
please God to permit
a spirituall desertion
to lye upon us, let us
be quiet, still waiting
for the gift of God in
patience: for who are
wee that God should
bestow so great a blef-
sing and spirituall joy
upon us? And above all
things, in such a cause
deferre not spirituall
counsell one minuite:
God works powerfully
and

Triall of Conscience.

and miraculouſly in
the accepted wayes of
his owne Ordinance :
and I would to God
every one would
know this : the very
ignorance of it being
ſo great and undiſ-
cern'd a ſinne : in ſuch
caſes, the 103. *Psalm* is
of admirable uſe, and
ſo is the 51 : In one
word, mercies muſt be
ſo rejoyc'd in, that they
double our induſtry in
pleaſing their Author;
Sinnes muſt bee ſo la-

D 5 mented

Triall of Conscience.

mented in Faith, that
the grieve shall double
both our experience
of mercy, and caution
of future transgression,
which cannot bee, un-
lesse wee loath our
sinnes at height in
opposition to Gods
purity, and cry out
with *Job* : Since my
eye has scene thee, I
repented and abhorre
my selfe, and repent in
Ashes : that is, Works
of mortification, hard-
nesse, want of deli-
cacy,

ce. *Triall of Conscience.*

cacy, slender and
course fare, watchful-
nesse for a while, and
the like, and in all con-
stancy : that's the
fourth condition : all
the act in generall
must bee done con-
stantly, no omission.
Those who serve God,
God loves them to
the end; and they who
continue to love God,
serve him to the end:
If seven times fall, se-
ven times rise againe:
nay, if seventy seven
times,

Triall of Conscience.

times, seventy thousand times, as often repent, and be sure to continue thy Tryall, and care over all thy actions, remembering the Barre at which thou art to arraign thy selfe, before Night shall give thee rest; a little day of Judgement: so doubtlesse by the implored mercy of God, our continuall surveying of Gods mercies, and our owne sinnes constantly

se. *Triall of Conscience.*

ly every day, cannot
chuse but raise in us
most admirable love
towards the one, and
most just hatred of
the other, that wee
shall arrive to an ex-
cellent temper of the
soule, which wee shall
manifest in Devotion
to our God, in love
to every man in Tem-
perance and Chastity,
and Sobriety to our
owne soules and bo-
dies. What an inut-
terable blessing is it,
that

Triall of Conscience.

that Heaven should be
thus on earth, and that
every day wee should
have so free accessse,
and familiar inter-
course with the King
of Heaven and Earth?
Burne, and not con-
sume, like *Moses* his
Chappell in the Bush:
for otherwise our Cod
is a consuming fire.

The

Triall of Conscience.



The first Section.

THe last Condition follows, without which, Constancy may chance not to doe so much as shee ought; and this is *Appetitude*, all must bee done fitly, conveniently, proportionably, or we lose a great part of the blessing : The meaning is this : No man we know, but as
all

Trial of Conscience.

all have all, has some peculiar reigning imperfection, the Darling vice, and the tye of all the rest : some have it in thoughts, & musings of vaine-glory, and Castles in the Aire. Others in their words, oft swearing, jesting flanders, filthy discourse, &c. Others in grosse Actions of severall sorts : Now whatsoever it be, if thy hearts impartiall experience shall (after Prayer

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ee. *Triall of Conscience.*

ne er to God how to finde
n- it, since the Devill so
r- strives to conceale it
ye ence finde by custome
e and selfe-love what &
s, which it is ; then
e- must the heart at time
n of Tryall take a double
n survey of all her parti-
c- culars, lay a double
weight of sorrowes
Mortification upon
all her Extravagances,
set a double watch
over all her by-pathes,
avoyding every occa-
sion that has hereto-
fore

Triall of Conscience.

fore but tended unto any of her acts ; and the more noted occasions , it were not amisse to take a peculiar Catalogue of them , by some Characters onely knowne unto our selves , that wee may meeete with all her baites , & assure our selves , dissolve this knot , and you loosen every sinne in the body. Bosome finnes are the very life of all the rest , take them away,

ace. *Triall of Conscience.*

nto way, and it is easie to
and remove the other,
Ca. with this great pro-
a- mise, that this being
li- but one exercise of a
m, thousand, though true-
ers ly, I thinke the best,
to wee lay no vertue or
ee efficacy upon the ex-
all ercise, but all upon the
ar co-operating Grace,
is and blessing of God.
n And thus I have
o shew'd you briefly and
s plainly how the Triall
ll must beedone: I must
- now shew you what
o must

Triall of Conscience

must be done, and the
severall parts of this
Exercise, and all too
with the same brevity.

The first Section.

First then, though
particular order
may be free, I should
prescribe that the
whole course and or-
der of the Devotion
from the beginning
to the end might
completely bee agree-
ed

Trial of Conscience.

ed upon before ever
the knee were banded:
after this, having set
our selves not in the
lazy posture of one
knee, and a columnary
elbow, but to such a
position, that might
with its owne reve-
rence strike the Ma-
ster with a thought
of what he is about, a
Publican prostration,
a humble eye, a sadly
serious Aspect, a
beaten breast, deepe
but quiet groanes,
still

Triall of Conscience

still and lowly voice;
all this even Nature
would dictate to a
Heathen. After this
let the Prayer begin
with a gratefull re-
hearfall of Gods mer-
cies, under which
name reckon his
Judgments also, which
his wisdom and love
has chastised thee
by, or try'd thy love
to him by laying them
on those who have re-
lations of love unto
thee, as the soule has
treasur'd

ce. *Triall of Conscience.*

ce; treasur'd the store up
are from time to time in
a particular for those of
his that day, even to
in that liberty of prayer:
e- and because none may
r- bee omitted, let Je-
h sus bee mentioned
is one for all; for from
h eternall Election to
e eternall glory all is
e Jesus; so desiring God
e for his sake to make us
really thankfull for
them to him, and his
bounty to continue the
to us, according to his
owne

Trial of Conscience.

owne will. The first part, which I call the *Eucharist*, or giving of thanks, is discharged sufficiently.



The second Section.

THe second part, let it be Confession of finnes in generall, from the first to the last of this day wherein we have liv'd, for herein is Gods mercy wonderfully magnified

nce. *Triall of Conscience.*

first
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g of
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let
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or
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is
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fi'd, and our owne vile-
nesse mightily aggra-
vated, that notwith-
standing all Gods fa-
vours, yet we have un-
graciously rebel'd, and
yet notwithstanding
all our rebellions, God
has not left off to bee
gracious : in that wee
see him affoord us
time and power to
pray for pardon : so af-
ter particular enume-
ration, with dolour of
heart, after the manner
afore prescribed, let

E

us

Triall of Conscience.

us with a Catholicke
Confession of knowne
and unknowne, not
withour particular
Contrition, for our
noted sins of omission,
as well as for our reig-
ning and bosome e-
normities committed,
desire God to take his
owne way in chasti-
zing of us heere, that
we may be saved here-
after; and so for
Christ Jesus his sake
to send the Comforter
into our hearts both
with

Triall of Conscience.

with peace and power;
peace of Conscience, as
touching what wee
have done, and power
never to doe the same
again, upon the al-
lurements or threates
of the whole world.



The second Section.

THis second part
thus concluded,
the third may fitly
be entred by transiti-
E 2 on,

Triall of Conscience.

on, of magnifying the
mercy of God, in per-
mitting us by the in-
tercession of Iesus to
pray for one another,
and promising to heare
our Supplications
powr'd out entirely for
our Brethren; nay, to
blesse us for doing that;
for which God gives us
both will and power to
doe it : Oh the depth
of such a mercy!

The

ce. *Triall of Conscience.*



The third Section.

THIS third part
then I'll call *Inter-*
cession, which must
containe a brieft, but
passionate desire unto
Almighty God : first,
to glorifie his owne
name, in the wayes of
his owne Will upon
all flesh, though never
so unpleasant to car-
nall Reason. Second-
ly,

Triall of Conscience.

ly, to have mercy upon all men, and to multiply meanes of effectuall conversion to all ungodly men, whether within, or without the pale of the Church. Thirdly, and in especiall manner, to blesse the universall Church, to heare the groanes of the Saints, and to come quickly, and to prepare every heart for his Comming : meane-while (which
is

Triall of Conscience

is the fourth part) to
blessed, amongst other
Christian Kingdomes,
that wherein wee en-
joy freedome of
Religion, and there-
in to pray for the
Lords Annoynted, the
Queene, the blood
Royall: likewise for all
persons, of all sorts, in
all places, that all may
receive their mea-
sure of Grace, and
serve God according-
ly in their severall
Callings: and in par-

Triall of Conscience.

ticular to desire God to bestow a double portion upon all our friends, and all those who have relation unto us in the bond of blood, affinity, or acquaintance. Fifthly, to labour for a blessing upon our enemies, and so the more earnestly to sollicite God, the more averse wee finde perchance our Hearts from our Tongues; and yet beware not to leave

Triall of Conscience.

leave, but even with
teares to aske, till we
finde some flame of
Charity in our soules,
asking forgiveness that
wee finde so little;
for without this, all
the Exercise is no-
thing: for this part is
the very touch-stone
of all true prayers, the
very tryall of the Try-
all: many a thousand
will pray exceeding
well till they come to
this, which they either
omit, or performe it

Triall of Conscience.

perfunctorily and deceitfully, with reservations and distinctions, and so all their prayers turne into sinne, and their owne curse: a thing, I am affraid, which is a Canker in most Mens and Womens Devotions, who otherwise carry a great esteeme and fame of Piety: for seeing we are to conclude with the Lords Prayer, wherein wee pray God (the phrase doubt-

Triall of Conscience.

doubtlesse was put fo
by the Spirit on pur-
pose) to forgive us
our Trespases, as wee
forgive them that
trespasse against us;
if then wee retaine the
least ill will, the least
swelling of heart, the
least motions of re-
venge, or disdaine, or
neglect: it is our owne
prayer, that God
would doe the like
by us; oh the horreur
and stupidity of such
Devotion, curse, and
damme

Triall of Conscience.

damme our selves,
for the least wrath of
God reserved, excludes
from Heaven, as well
as his whole displea-
sure. I would to God
all would lay this to
heart ; for assure our
selves, the Prophet
speakes true, *The*
Lord is not mocked.
Sixtly, because sinnes
of combination and
society are the grea-
test sinnes, as wherein,
like the Devill, wee
turne Tempters, and
as

Triall of Conscience.

as much as lies in us,
strive to damme o-
thers also : For this
cause I would have a
peculiar remembrance
of those, whom at any
time wee have caused
to sinne either by
Temptation or Scan-
dall ; and a desiring
of God that he would
blesse us with sacred
opportunities, where-
by wee might confesse
our sinnes to one ano-
ther, least the heart
of one should be hard-
ned,

Triall of Conscience.

ned, because it perceives not the heart of the other softened, especially when the tempted and seduced person has an opinion of the Tempters Piety or Knowledge, there the Tempter commits a double sinne, if hee imparts not at first opportunity, his remorse and repentance which God has bestowed upon him : and although some may pretend
equa-

Triall of Conscience.

equality of transgression because of ones consent to the others allurements, or in two alike, willing to a fact: yet take this as a Rule, that one alwayes is in Gods esteeme unequal, and in Nature it cannot bee, but that either temptation, or at least mention, must set one transgressor foremost; nay, in the penitence both are bound, who have sinned by society, to esteeme themselves

Triall of Conscience.

selves each as first in
the breach of Gods
Law, at least co-equals:
This is a Myſtery.
Seventhly, there muſt
be ſupplication made
for all afflicted peo-
ple, whether in minde,
or body, or eſtate:
eſpecially for thoſe
who ſuffer for the
Teſtimony of a good
Conſcience, as like-
wiſe for thoſe who
groane under a bad
one: which would bee
the neceſſary doome
of

Triall of Conscience.

of every man living,
did not God in mercy
interpose the woun-
ded body of a just
Mediator betwixt our
sinnes and us. Lastly,
though God permits
Charity a higher
place, yet Humility
accepts of this for
our owne persons,
wherein according to
that power of utte-
rance, which God
shall bestow upon the
soule, wee are to im-
plore most earnestly,
but

Triall of Conscience.

but briefly, first that
God would glorifie
himselſe in us, whether
by life or death, and
onely ſo farre grant
our former Petiti-
ons, as they ſhall ſtand
in conformity to his
ſacred will and plea-
ſure : but withall, that
ſince Ieſus has ſuffe-
red the juſt for the
unjuſt, God would
be pleaſed to glorifie
himselſe in mercy,
and for our Saviours
ſake, to grant us a
lively

ce. *Triall of Conscience.*

lively Faith, by vertue of which wee may sincerely lament our sinnes, by whose power wee may indeed be thankful for his mercies, most unfeignedly carefull to grow in piety and saving knowledge : and that all this might happily bee effected, pray unto God uncestantly for his grace and protection this Night, or this Day, and a daily

Triall of Conscience.

dayly competency of his earthly blessings, so farre forth, that wee may attend upon Gods Worke without Distraction, still referring all to Divine pleasure, and beseeching God, that whatsoever in these our sinfull prayers, through unwor thinesse we have not dar'd, or ignorance beene able to aske, or through any imperfection or sinne have either mistak't
or

Triall of Conscience.

omitted, his mercy would bee pleased to grant those things, to pardon that unworthinesse, and sinne, and ignorance, and make up that imperfection, for his sake who is his wisdom, our merit, and righteousness, and the perfection of all things, Jesus Christ, the righteous, to whom, with the father, & holy Spirit, three Persons, one God, be all glory and power

Triall of Conscience.

power for ever. So desiring God that wee may have leave to shut up our sinfull prayers, with that perfect forme which our Saviour taught us : Let us conclude all with the Lords prayer, and so compose our selves to rest, having committed all to Christ, as unto a faithfull Redeemer ; Morning must doe as much for the night, as the night did for the day.

Thus

()

THus the
prescription
of the whole duty
being finisht, Ile
suppose, Your
Honour, Ma-
dam, in the faire
Hopes of those
Prayers, which I
promise to send
to

()

to Heaven every
Day for Your
successe, a happy
Proficient in this
Rare Exercise;
and hereupon I
dare prophesie
of two temptati-
ons that will
siege uppon you:
for Sathan being
as

()

as it were thus
rejected, and day-
ly exorcis'd by
these ACTs of
Devotions, and
therefore mad to
see a Soule out
of his reach,
tempts backe a-
gaine, at Di-
stance, with all
F his

()

his force and policy : Two extremes are his fatall baits. First, (which lightly is the most impious) he le perswade to a kinde of horroure in the Exercise, and consequently

()

ly a loathing of
it ; so that per-
chance a double
feare may seize
upon you ; one if
You omit it, sug-
gesting that You
have lost Your
former Love ; a-
nother, if you per-
forme, suggesting
F 2 that

()

that the sinners
prayers are vain,
and that you su-
perstitiously wor-
ship God in a way
that hee has not
required: but now
observe it, and
you shall find both
false: for first,
I have shewed
that

()

that this Exercise
must be enterd up-
on as a priviledge,
not an injunction,
because it is nei-
ther our power
nor merit that we
can performe so
rare a worke, but
the indulgence of
God our Father.

F 3 Se-

()

Secondly , that
our sinnes ap-
peare so plaine to
God ; so much the
better, so long as
Man presumes
not , the Mer-
cies of God are
the more mag-
nified : Nor is
there any feare of
Super-

()
Superstition, since
God has comman-
ded the Duty and
the manner both:
both which God
hath done partly
by explicate com-
mand, partly by
implicite in all
those places where
hee commands us

F 4 to

to walke circum-
spectly, to trye
our wayes, to
call to remem-
brance our mis-
deeds and his
mercies, to search
our spirits, to
Examine our
hearts: This is the
very duty Conso-
nant

()

nant to the Text,
and the manner
not repugnant ; so
that praier to God
for cheerefulnesse
in his service, and
humility, will lay
the Devill by
Gods assistance, as
soone as it is
rais'd. Wherefore
F 5 the

()

the next time bee
appeares, it shall
be in quite con-
trary shape, and
so set a worke his
econd extreame,
which tends as
much to Presump-
tion, as the other
to Desperation:
The Suggestions
are

()

are these, that
You are excee-
ding happy in the
Practice, that
GOD is Your
Debtor for this
supererogation, &
that all Men are
Your inferiours,
because scarce one
so holy as Your
selfe,

()

selfe , that this
Exercise bath
some inherent rare
quality , and the
like : but all
this also is quick-
ly answered , if
you remember that
it is the gift and
power of G O D ,
not your owne ,
that

()

that ever you per-
form'd, or so much
as thought upon
so sacred an Ex-
ercise, and yet
that the Exer-
cise is not to
bee Idoliz'd, be-
cause of it selfe
it works nothing,
merits nothing,
moves

()

nothing, moves no-
thing ; onely as
G O D blesses his
owne Instrument,
which any Exer-
cise may doe as
well as this , if
God please ; onely
this is a Duty
drawne in con-
formity to his
reuea-

()

revealed Will,
which makes God
blesse it the bet-
ter ; not for the
exercises sake, but
for Christs sake,
in whose Name
wee pray ; To
which it is not dis-
sonant, and yet
consonant to the
fate

()


fate of man; so then
selfe-denial, or one
thought of origi-
nall impurity, da-
shes this Cocka-
trice in the Egge.
This I thought
good to forewarne
your soule of, be-
cause I would
fore-arme it: I shal
pray

○
pray to God, that
any of my Labours
may advantage
Your Honour in
Your course of
Religion; and so
rest, with a pious
ambition of being
still thus employ'd.


Your Honours in
all due observance.

T. R. ~

FINIS.



Imprimatur Sa. Baker:
Ex ædibus Londin.
Octob. 4. 1638. modo
intra tres Menses
proximè se-
quentes.



2

vi

ii.

do

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